

In the Claims

## Claims 1-8 and 9-22 (Cancelled)

Claim 23 (Currently amended): A method for screening a potential drug using a peptide, said method comprising:

contacting the peptide with the potential drug, wherein the peptide has the ability to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm; and

determining whether the potential drug inhibits the ability of the peptide to translocate a protein from the bacterial cytoplasm to the periplasm, wherein the peptide is obtainable from *E. coli* K12 and is encoded by an operon comprising a gene selected from the group consisting of *tatA*, *tatB*, *tatC*, and *tatE*, or a homologue or functional fragment of any of the foregoing, wherein the homologue is obtainable from a Gram-negative bacterium and has at least 30% homology at the nucleotide or amino acid level.

## Claims 24-26 (Cancelled)

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method of claim 23, wherein the operon comprises the *tatB* gene, peptide is encoded by the *tatB* gene.

## Claim 28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29 (Previously added): The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, and SEQ ID NO:15.

## Claims 30-33 (Cancelled)

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Claim 34 (Previously added): The method of claim 23, wherein the peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

Claims 35-40 (Cancelled)